

THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

With the Conference Just Around the Corner Delegates Put Final Touches on Their Preparation



Photo: Student volunteers look forward to helping visiting delegates in Kobe

In the final preparation class held at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUPS) on November 12—just over a week away from the conference—the delegates of the upcoming National Model United Nations (NMUN) are in the homestretch. The class followed an actual conference's flow, just as in the last class, but was more expanded to the very last, with the adoptions of Draft Resolutions (DR).

The first formal debate opened with speeches by five delegates for agenda setting. The Republic of Serbia of Economic and Society of Council (ECOSOC), for example, mentioned that agenda 2 should be discussed because there have been very few conferences about disaster risk reduction at the United Nations and even at the ECOSOC so far. Therefore, the

committee should have more time to talk about the topic in order to make progress for a sustainable society, which could lead to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After the meeting was suspended for 10 minutes for informal debate to discuss the agenda order, the session shifted back to formal debate where the agenda order was set. For example, Uganda of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) explained agenda 1, which is about refugee education and clean water supply. According to the country, more than 60 percent of refugees were under 18 years of age, which made Uganda realize the importance of promoting sustainable education system for children. Hiroko

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Kunimoto, senior at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, also said that building wells and providing technologies were necessary for a clean water supply.

Serbia of UNHCR talked about the importance of child refugees for displace from their countries. Arisa Mikuriya, Junior at KCUFS' English Studies Department said, "Serbia provides two types of support: helping refugees in transit to the other countries or accepting the assignment land. Regretfully Serbia can only take up to six thousand refugees in the five camps."

Ghana of General Assembly (GA) appealed the importance of working in unity with other countries to combat the problems of refugees. Nao Takato, a junior at KCUFS' English Studies Department, said, "Ghana is willing to cooperate with other members to improve the situation of refugees in terms of higher education and child labor." The agenda order was then set as 1 and 2.

Then an informal debate was held for 45 minutes, during which delegates formed their working groups (WG) and began the discussion on their working papers (WP).



The following formal debate was opened by the speech of Australia of General Assembly (GA). Takumi Nakamura, sophomore at KCUFS's International Department, summarized what was going on in the last informal debate. The debate was then separated into two groups. One of them discussed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) for nuclear distraction, and the other addressed border control of nuclear trafficking and the security system of Africa. After the formal debate, delegates started to negotiate more deeply in order to make concrete their WP. During the informal debate, six WPs were signed to be

submitted to the *Dias* as DRs.

Then the session moved back to formal debate where delegates introduced their DRs. For example, Australia of ECOSOC said that providing education for vulnerable people such as women and people in conflicted area was an urgent topic. At the end of the session, DRs were voted by acclamation, placard vote and roll call vote.

After the meeting was adjourned, Prof. Donna Tatsuki of the KCUFS's English Studies Department, and Prof. Craig Smith of Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, who have supervised students participating in Model United Nations, gave advice.

"Some of you were speaking really fast when you were giving your speech," said Prof. Tatsuki. "It's better to have fewer words and say it more clearly, so don't feel rushed," she suggested.

"This year on January 1, sustainable development goals program started," said Prof. Smith. "It's going to be a big part of making this world better in spite of what will be going on in certain parts of the world through the next 15 years of your life, and this is your chance to be involved in the 15-year program to make the world better."



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KCUFS Student Volunteers Prepare to Host the Conference

By Takahiro Kamo

Over the last seven months, some 280 student volunteers at KCUFS have been working to host some 340 delegates from around the world. Their effort was initiated by 13 students who launched the executive committee in the beginning of 2015. Most of them have experienced previous NMUN held in other countries as delegates. They are organizing five teams which will offer cultural visits to Kyoto and Hiroshima, conference services and information services, as well as ceremony and social event services—to make the first NMUN in Japan a success.



The number of student volunteers for the cultural visits is around 100. Three students are assigned to each participating university consisting of as many as 27 delegates. They plan to show the delegates such tourist spots as Kiyomizu Temple and Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto, and Miyajima Island and Peace Park in Hiroshima. Staff members have been divided into 10 groups, five for Kyoto and the other five for Hiroshima, and each group has met more than 10 times since

September to learn about the two cities. It is important that they are able to explain well the background and current situation of both cities and the culture of Japan.

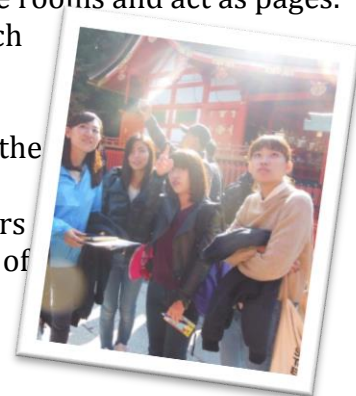
The group for the Hiroshima visits, for example, distributed to staff members a list of possible questions that delegates might ask, which extends to a wide range of subjects, such as the name of the three most famous views in Japan, which includes the Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima. The group for the Kyoto visits has invited Ms. Meagan Sneddon, a student from Monash University in Australia who is currently studying in KCUFS's master's program in an exchange program, in order to ask advice about questions that foreign visitors might ask, e.g. the difference between shrine and temple, and what the "countless Torii" at Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto represents.

On Nov. 12 and 13, a week before the arrival of delegates, these groups actually went to both cities to conduct a rehearsal for the guiding.

The Conference Service team consists of around 30 student volunteers who are going to assist the procession of the conference. Some members will be at the reception desk to help participants to the Kobe International Conference Center. Other members will be in the conference rooms and act as pages. At the conference itself, delegates sometimes will send memos to the *Dias*, which are pages received from delegates and forwarded to the *Dias*.

Information Service staff members also greet inbound delegates at the airports, and help them get to the hotels in Kobe where they will be staying. At the Conference Center, they will be working at an information desk to provide participants with such information as where to go for lunch. Some staff members will also be assigned to certain locations in Sannomiya—the commercial center of Kobe—to help visiting delegates reach their destinations.

The number of ceremony volunteer team members is about 40, and they are going to be engaged in setting up the ceremony venue and also escorting delegates there. At the opening ceremony, they will operate the lighting and audio facilities of the hall.



Twenty-six social events staff members are in charge of organizing Jazz Night and Delegate Dance.

At the NMUN held last year in Prague, Czech Republic, students at the hosting Palacky University helped delegates from other countries to get around the town. There were no signs written in English in the city and, the conference rooms were distant from where the opening ceremony was held.

"We felt comfortable because their volunteer staff always led us from one place to the other carefully," said Naohiro Uramachi, a senior at the International Studies Department who is the director of this year's ceremony. "Delegates are coming to Kobe to have discussions and we do not want them to feel any stress while staying here. Also, we hope they will enjoy Japanese culture," he said.

Canadians Go All the Way to Bring the World of MUN to Japan

By Yuzuri Funabashi and Ryo Ueno

To bring MUN in English to Japan, three Canadian professors have been putting in countless effort and passion. What started out as a friendship kindled by a shared enthusiasm for English education has turned into a deep professional commitment for Prof. Lori Zenuk-Nishide and Prof. Donna Tatsuki of KCUFS, and Prof. Craig Smith of Kyoto University of Foreign Studies(KUFS).

It all started with Prof. Nishide, who hails from Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan, when she incorporated MUN in the KUFS' Nishi High School curriculum in 1990. At that time, some international high schools in Japan were holding MUN events; however, in those cases all of the participants were native or near-native speakers of English. Prof. Nishide wanted the Japanese high school students to have an opportunity to do the same thing in an English as a Foreign Language environment. Working with her team of teachers, Prof. Nishide established what is believed to be first organized MUN conference aimed directly at high school EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students. The conference was called the Kansai High School MUN and continues as an annual event.

Prof. Nishide first got to know Prof. Smith, who is from London, Ontario, because they attended the same graduate school program in Japan. When Prof. Smith joined the faculty of KUFS in 1995, he learned about the Kansai High School MUN conferences, which were held at KUFS and realized the value of MUN for his university students. The 9.11 terrorist attack in 2001 also made him realize that students needed to understand the role of poverty as a cause of conflict in the world, and he knew that Japanese students were clearly lacking such an opportunity. He started to take his students to overseas MUNs from 2001 onward and has been actively working on MUN activities in Japan with Prof. Nishide.

In 2010 Prof. Nishide started the Japan University English MUN (JUEMUN) with Prof. Smith and another Canadian (who had once taught at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi high school) when the International Communication Course (ICC) was



(From left, Nishide, Tatsuki and Smith)

launched at KCUFS. There were no annual MUN conferences held in English at universities in Japan at that time. Although some universities had encouraged MUN club activities, KCUFS was the very first university to officially incorporate MUN into its school curriculum. This was the point at which Prof. Tatsuki, from Edmonton, Alberta, became involved with MUN. She was the conference Co-Chair for Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) International Conference in 2010 at Nagoya and persuaded JALT to sponsor the first JUEMUN.

The three are expecting Gaidai Rengo and the Hyogo Consortium students to achieve many goals and obtain great abilities throughout this event. By experiencing NMUN, Prof. Tatsuki thinks, students will come back to everyday life and daily class with totally different expectations about what they can do. She thinks developing friendships with other delegates from the world is also a part of delegate experience.

Prof. Smith emphasizes the importance of "face to face communication." Discussing the same issues together with foreign students in person makes the experience more intense and meaningful more than only reading articles or researching on the Internet. Prof. Nishide sees NMUN Japan as an opportunity for students, faculty and Japanese university communities to expand their global citizenship.

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